

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116, since the only claim amendments are those made to rewrite those claims the Examiner objected to in independent format and to cancel rejected claim 10, thereby placing all remaining claims into condition for allowance.

An Excess Claims Fee letter is attached hereto for one excess independent claim.

It is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Claims 1-9 and 11-33 are all of the claims pending in the present Application. Claims 1-9 and 22-33 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 11-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format and has accordingly rewritten these claims.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-9 and 11-33, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

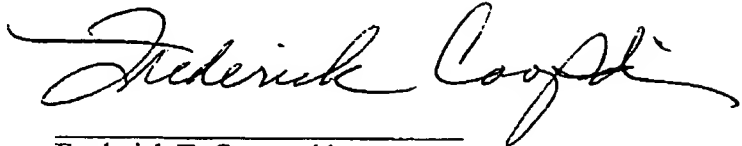
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

S/N: 09/442,150
Docket: ALM9990095

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 11/10/04



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner K. Parton on November 10, 2004.



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